Advanced Placement Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the Advanced Placement program?
- 2. What is the difference between Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment in Utah?
- 3. What are the advantages of taking an AP course
- 4. How does an AP class differ from other high school courses?
- 5. What background would I need in order to succeed in an AP course?
- 6. What AP courses/exams are offered?
- 7. How much does it cost to take an AP course?
- 8. Will I receive college credit?
- 9. How can I prepare for an AP course?
- 10. How can I be sure the courses I take, will prepare me for an AP course?
- 11. Can I take the AP examination if I haven't taken an AP course?
- 12. When are the AP exams administered?
- 13. If my school does not offer an AP class, how could I take one?
- 14. Are there ways in which I may earn college credit without taking an AP exam?
- 15. If I don't score well on an AP exam, will I earn credit or will it affect my admission?
- 16. How many times may I take an AP exam?
- 17. Can I use a calculator during an exam?
- 18. I have a disability, may I request accommodations?
- 19. Do AP courses benefit the majority of students in the classes?
- 20. *Do underrepresented and low-income students benefit from AP and do well on the exams?
- 21. *Does participation in AP help students succeed once they get to college?
- 22. *Why should we encourage more high school students to take AP math and science courses?

1. What is the Advanced Placement program?

Advanced Placement is a 37 course program offered by the College Board. To read more, please visit the College Board at www.collegeboard.com
Courses are taught at local high schools and allows students to participate in college level courses and possibly earn college credit while still in high school. Most high schools and colleges participate in this program to give students opportunities to earn college credit or advanced standing when they enter post secondary studies.

2. What is the difference between Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment in Utah?

Both are rigorous college courses offered in the high school for high school and advanced study credit, and preparation for higher learning.

Advanced Placement follows the College Boards guidelines in courses and study. There are 37 advanced placement courses in Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, English, Computers, Music Theory and World Languages, that are offered with 22 exams. Credits are given in high school for a passed course. College credits are earned by submitting scores from the AP exams to the college of your choice..

Concurrent Enrollment offerings in the State of Utah number over 900 and cover Math, Science, English, Art, Humanities, Social Studies, Education, World Languages, and Career and Technical Education courses. High School and college credits are given simultaneously for a passed course and a permanent college transcript is created.

3. What are the advantages of taking an AP course?

AP courses prepare a student for college. Numerous studies show that students who have taken AP classes, demonstrate a higher level of success in college. Students also acquire academic skills and an increase in self-confidence in preparation for college studies.

Students who take AP classes, have the opportunity to earn high school and college credit. This not only saves time and tuition, but if a student has accrued many college credits, it would also save on room/board because of earlier college graduation.

4. How does an AP class differ from other high school courses?

AP classes are challenging and rigorous, and aligned with university courses. They will require more effort on the student's behalf, so students should be motivated and willing to tackle this challenge.

5. What background would I need in order to succeed in an AP course?

Previous academic success, with the ability to problem-solve, draw comparisons, analyze and reason. Reading abilities should support independent progress and perceptive thinking. Proficient and clear writing skills are beneficial. The earlier students prepare for advanced placement courses, by enrolling and succeeding in other rigorous courses, the more likely they will experience success in advanced placement.

6. What AP courses/exams are offered?

Art English

Art History English Literature Studio Art English Language Science Social Studies **Biology** Macroeconomics Chemistry Microeconomics **Environmental Science European History**

Comp Government & Politics Physics B Physics C **US** Government & Politics

Human Geography

Mathematics Psychology Calculus AB **US** History Calculus BC World History

Statistics

Computers

Computer Science A World Language & Culture French Language Computer Science AB

French Literature

German Language Music Theory

Italian Language & Culture

Latin Language Spanish Literature Latin: Vergil

Coming Soon!

Spanish Language Japanese Language & Culture- May 2007

Chinese Language & Culture -May 2007

Russian Language & Culture

7. How much does it cost to take an AP course?

There are generally no charges if it is part of a school's curriculum. Exams range from \$75-\$85, but are subject to a fee waiver if you have completed the necessary paperwork in your district. Financial assistance is also available through the College Board for students in need.

8. Will I receive college credit?

Each college determines the scores to be accepted for credit, but generally, a score of at least a 3 is awarded credit. Colleges may award three or more credits per exam, so check with the college that you are submitting scores or applications.

9. How am I able to prepare for an AP course?

Preparation for AP classes should begin early. Enroll in honors courses or rigorous high school courses in preparation for advanced placement. Reading and writing skills are essential for academic success and elective courses in these content areas would be beneficial. Parents should encourage wise time management, strong study skills, a efficient study atmosphere and communication with your child's teachers and counselor.

10. How can I be sure the courses I take, will prepare me for an AP course?

Many school districts have content area meetings periodically and create curriculum plans for students to prepare for academic growth in their area. Teachers are encouraged to coordinate their classes and assure they are preparing students for the next course in their content area of curriculum. Training for teachers is available throughout the year at the local, regional and state level.

11. Can I take the AP examination if I haven't taken an AP course?

Yes, however taking the AP course may result in a higher score on the AP exam.

12. What is an AP exam?

An assessment on the subject material from the AP course for which it coincides.

13. When are the AP exams administered?

AP exams are proctored in May of each year and scores are sent in July.

14. What happens if I guess on a question on the AP exam?

Quoted from the College Board Web site: "Scores on the multiple-choice sections of the AP Exams are based on the number of questions answered correctly minus a fraction of the number of questions answered incorrectly. No points are awarded or deducted for unanswered questions. For questions with five answer choices, one-fourth of a point is subtracted for every wrong answer. For questions with four answer choices, one-third of a point is deducted for every wrong answer. Thus, random guessing is unlikely to raise or lower your grade. However, if you have SOME knowledge of the question, and can eliminate one or more answer choices, informed guessing from among the remaining choices is usually to your advantage."

15. If my school does not offer an AP class, how could I take one?

There are several options. Speak with your high school administrator about a possible course offering. If enough students have an interest, it would be beneficial for the school to offer the course.

Another school nearby may offer the course, if it is feasible for you to take this course elsewhere.

Research opportunities for AP courses through distance learning networks. Utah's EdNet offers a few courses through Interactive Teleconferencing and online opportunities exist.

16. Are there ways in which I may earn college credit without taking an AP exam?

Yes, Utah offers many courses through the Concurrent Enrollment program. Visit the Concurrent Enrollment tab on the Early College Website.

College correspondence courses are offered through many colleges and the Utah Electronic College.

CLEP (College Level Examination Program) exams are offered by colleges and universities. Check with the office of Academic Affairs at each institution for more information.

17. If I don't score well on an AP exam, will I earn credit or will it affect my admission?

You can always choose to send AP scores to a college at a later date, after you review your AP score. Since AP scores are not distributed until July of each year, if you are a senior, the chances are, you have already been admitted or have applied for enrollment. If you have taken the exam your Junior year, you may have not designated a university to receive the scores. You may order the scores at any time for a \$15 fee from the College Board.

18. How many times may I take an AP exam?

You may take an AP exam each time it is offered, once each May. Your grade report will include your grades for all AP exams you have taken, including repeated exams.

19. Can I use a calculator during an exam?

For the appropriate content areas, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Physics, or Statistics, and only in the designated sections of these exams. Please visit the College Board website at:

<u>www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/exday_cal.html</u> for the list of AP-authorized calculators.

20. I have a disability, may I request accommodations?

If you have a documented disability, you may be eligible for accommodations for AP exams. Please see your counselor or your school's AP Coordinator for more information.

21. How do I apply the credit in my AP exam towards my total units?

Check with your higher education institution for details on credits. You must send an exam report directly to your college or university (this may be ordered at any time after the examination) and credits will vary depending on scores and college policy.

22. Will the credits vary depending on a university or community college?

Most likely. Credits vary depending on each institution and their individual policies regarding scores, exams and core credit vs. elective credit. Check with your institution to see how your scores will be translated in to credits.

23. Will my credits be applied towards my field of study or elective credit?

This will vary with each higher education institution.